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News Release

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Corps of Engineers, contractor companies' employees deploy to Iraq

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.— The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has five civilian employees working in Iraq alongside 59 personnel from EOD Technology, Inc., Knoxville, Tenn., and USA Environmental, Tampa, Fla.

EOD Technology and USA Environmental are contracted to provide ordnance and explosives expertise to U.S. Central Command as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The current contract amount for each company is \$3.45 million.

The contractors are in Iraq to perform ordnance clearance, de-mining operations, booby trap clearances, site investigations, evaluations and responses, in support of construction and rehabilitation efforts at selected work sites.

The five Corps of Engineers civilian employees are three unexploded ordnance specialists, a project engineer and a program manager.

Although the Army has the necessary expertise to perform the mission, the contractors with oversight from the Corps of Engineers are supporting the military to free up soldiers so they can be focused directly on assisting military forces.

"This is challenging work with long hours in an austere environment, but it is also jam-packed with opportunities to learn new things and meet new people," said John Potter, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate.

The Corps of Engineers continually assesses the situation and will deploy or re-deploy ordnance and explosives experts as the circumstances require.

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